REMARKS

Claim 22 has also been amended to reflect that the adhesive portion on the back surface of the label extends to at least a portion of the edge of the label. Support for this limitation can be found in the Figures, specifically Figures 2 and 4.

In the action mailed August 28, 2003 and the Advisor Action mailed November 21, 2003, the Examiner rejected the pending claims under 35 U.S.C.102(a) as anticipated by Voy (4,661,189) or as obvious in view of the same reference. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as amended are neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of the teachings of Voy.

Voy discloses a method for forming labels in a single continuous process which includes an adhesive application assembly. In the method disclosed by Voy, the adhesive is appealed in such a manner that it does not extend to the edges or outer periphery of the label. (See, e.g. Col 10:19-25 and Figures 2-12.) This in contrast with the labels of the present invention where the adhesive extends to at least a portion of the label's edge or periphery. (See, e.g. Figures 2 and 4.) Thus Voy can not anticipate the present claims.
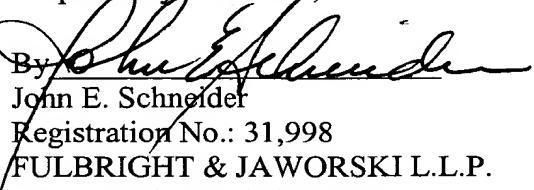
Nothing in Voy teaches or suggests extending the adhesive to the periphery. In fact, the clear teaching of Voy is to avoid extending the adhesive to the periphery. Thus the present claims cannot be said to be obvious in light of Voy.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. HO-P02167US0 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 15, 2004　　　　　　　　　　Respectfully submitted,

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